

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, April 16, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – Room C450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Sen. Gregory S. Bell
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. DeMar Bud Bowman
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Members Absent:

Pres. John L. Valentine
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard, House Chair

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Eric N. Weeks, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Chelsea Barrett, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hansen moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bell, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Hendrickson and Rep. Hutchings absent for the vote.

Sen. Knudson instructed the Committee to prioritize six items on "2008 Potential Study Items," a handout previously mailed to the Committee. Chair Knudson explained that these surveys will be compiled for future agenda items and a prioritized list will be sent to the Legislative Management Committee.

2. Utah Public Notice Website Update

Chair Knudson introduced Ms. Patricia Smith-Mansfield, Director, Division of Archives and Records Service, Department of Administrative Services. Ms. Smith-Mansfield briefly explained 2007 General Session H.B. 222, "Open and Public Meetings - Electronic Notice," mailed to the Committee previously. The bill added a requirement that a public body provide notice of their meetings on the UPNW (Utah Public Notice Website) beginning April 1, 2008. She explained that the date was extended to October 1, 2008 in 2008 General Session S.B. 38, "Transparency in Government." She discussed updates on UPNW, how posting occurs, and possible feature uses. She commented that the website has been widely used and favored by those who have been trained.

Ms. Smith-Mansfield introduced Ms. Tiffany O'Sheal, Website Administrator, Division of Archives and Records Service, Department of Administrative Services. Ms. O'Sheal demonstrated resources available on UPNW; including, searching for notices, subscriptions, and an administrative dashboard. She informed the Committee about technical aspects to make overall navigation and organization of UPNW user-friendly.

3. Update on Construction Projects and Salt Lake Area Master Plan for State Office Space Needs Needs -- DFCM (Division of Facilities Construction and Management)

Chair Knudson introduced Mr. Kent Dee Beers and Mr. Lynn Hinrichs, Division of Facilities Construction and Management. Mr. Beers presented and distributed "Department of Administrative Services, Division of Facilities Construction and Management, Report to Government Operations Interim Committee." Mr. Beers noted several 2007 DFCM Construction Management awards.

Mr. Beers reported on state funded capital development appropriation projects allocated from the past three legislative sessions, as well as, the current 2008 capital development appropriation projects' status. Mr. Beers noted that the appropriations performance reports show that DFCM continues to score in the 90th percentile for projects completed each year.

Mr. Beers presented information on the Salt Lake Area Master Plan Government Office Space Study and possible solutions for overcrowding and the demand for more office space. Specifically, through the selling of the DHS (Department of Human Services) building and the overcrowding in the Cannon building, this issue has become more pressing. Mr. Beers explained current construction of the new DHS and Department of Environmental Quality buildings that would reduce future office space needs. Mr. Beers explained the Ten-Year Master Plan for the Utah State Fair Park, which includes a proposal for a multi-agency office building, including a parking structure and possible construction of a new Department of Agriculture building.

Chair Knudson asked the Committee for questions regarding the presentation.

Sen. Bell inquired about the financial planning for the projects. Mr. Beers noted that bidding for projects has increased approximately 10% per year. Mr. Hinrichs noted that all expenses are predicted to go up over the next several years.

Rep. Bigelow inquired about building design standards for state funded construction over the past two decades. He asked how design standards have changed and how they compare to twenty years ago. Rep. Bigelow explained the importance of building for longevity.

Rep. Hansen questioned the building design standards of other state operated buildings, such as schools. He asked how these standards are administered and how they have changed.

Mr. Hinrichs explained the importance of factoring life-cycle analysis when making decisions on construction projects. He noted the value of more costly materials to construct longer lasting, higher quality structures.

MOTION: Rep. Bigelow moved to have DFCM bring additional information to the Committee for the Salt Lake downtown area office space and acreage needs for a 20-year horizon. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Grover absent for the vote.

4. Government Operations Overview of 2008 Bills Passed

Mr. Weeks explained changes made during the 2008 General Session on campaign finance disclosure deadlines. He distributed "Utah Campaign Finance Disclosure Deadlines," a handout mailed to the

Committee, which explained provisions passed during the 2008 General Session associated with campaign finance.

Mr. Weeks discussed "Government Operations-Related Bills Passed During the 2008 General Session," a handout mailed to the Committee. He distributed and presented "Government Operations Legislative Overview - 2008 General Session." The presentation reviewed the 48 government operations-related bills that passed during the 2008 General Session, which included 10 of the 11 bills recommended by the Committee during the 2007 interim. Mr. Weeks reviewed the appropriations allocated by the Legislature for the upcoming fiscal year.

5. Discussion of 2008 Interim Study Items

Chair Knudson reminded committee members to turn in their recommended study items for the 2008 interim. He explained that after the surveys were compiled, a letter of proposed study items for the 2008 interim will be submitted to the Legislative Management Committee.

Rep. Donnelson requested to combine all campaign/ethics reform study items into one category.

Rep. Hansen requested to combine all the election law study items into one category as well.

Chair Knudson agreed that the requests could be combined for purposes of making recommendations.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Bowman moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Grover absent for the vote.

Chair Knudson adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.